



**Camp Chapel
United Methodist
Church**

Carol L. Pazdersky,
Pastor

Gary Lushbaugh
Music Director

Judy Homberg
Office Manager

P.O. Box 15
White Marsh, MD 21162

Office: (410) 256-5561

Email
office@campchapel.org

Website
www.campchapel.org



Thankful and Grateful

At the Thanksgiving Eve service after the sermon, we played TAG: **Thankful And Grateful**. Everyone had three paper leaves and a pencil. Prior to the sermon, we spent a few moments writing down a few things for which we were Thankful and Grateful (“Leaves of Gratitude”). In response to the sermon, we shared our Thanks and Gratitude with others. The sharing was such a blessing! We met new friends and became better acquainted with old friends.

Below are the things for which we are thankful and grateful. May these ideas help you to see God’s blessings all around you that you may also play TAG!

The truce in Gaza

Camp Chapel

Helping others in need

Being able to volunteer at the Salem pantry

Seminary

Another year of safety in travel

Our church and pastor

Having the breath of life each day

For my daughter being with me celebrating Thanksgiving

For everyone I am surrounded by – near and far

Family who are always willing to share with us

To be able to share my gifts, talents, and time to those in need

Life

Human kindness

Stars in the sky

The beautiful gifts of God

The love of God

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Pastor and Camp Chapel

Jesus and the forgiveness he brought us

4th grandchild on the way

Sunny, warm days in November

Camp Chapel

For the new grandchild coming

For God's unconditional love, grace and mercy

For health, wife, kids, grandkids, life

Knowing that God will always watch over me

Being able to help others

Good friends

Health

Pastor Carol

My church family and their love and prayers

Improved health after a difficult year of challenges

Medical appliances

My calling

For those who follow Christ and show it in their actions

Christian love

Camp Chapel

The work of the Perry Hall Community Food Pantry

Loving wife and son

Being alive

A house to live in with family

Grandson's graduation from university and employment in his chosen field

For shelter and a secure home to return to daily

Pastor Carol



Upcoming Events

J.O.Y. (Just Older Youth)

Wednesday, January 3, 12:00 noon in Fellowship Hall

Join us and enjoy an afternoon of lunch, games, and fellowship with other Camp Chapel members. Bring a sandwich and a drink for lunch (dessert will be provided). Feel free to bring your favorite board game, cards or dominos. We meet on the first Wednesday of each month. **All Are Welcome!**



Saturday February 10, 2023
5:00 PM in Fellowship Hall
\$10.00 per person

This event is not open to the public. This is for congregation members only.

Chili, Cornbread, Dessert, Drink, & Entertainment!

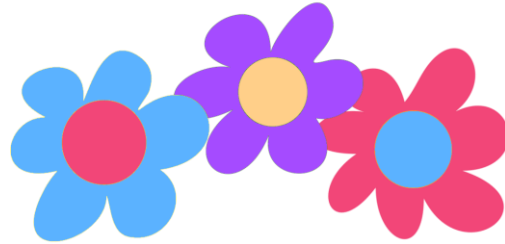
Come and sample delicious chilis of all varieties!

Special panel of judges. Prizes will be awarded! (All in the name of fun!)

This is a fundraising event for Children & Youth Ministry to purchase canopies for our annual Children's Carnival. Your help is greatly appreciated.

If you are interested in attending and/or making a chili for the event (homemade, of course), look for sign-up sheets at the entrances to the church buildings or contact Jackie Brawn at 410-652-2776 or jackiebrawn@gmail.com for more information.

Thank You



for your Kindness



THANK YOU

Prayer is a powerful thing. So many of you prayed for weeks that my back surgery would go well and I would heal quickly. Well, it worked. I'm doing very well. Now walking with a cane and I was cleared on December 12 to drive. I'm still in slight pain which should go away with time. I'm going to take it slowly and let my body heal.

I want to thank everyone in my Camp Chapel family who prayed, sent a card, called, visited, brought food or dinner, stayed with me, did laundry, got groceries and other kindnesses. All are much appreciated. Now I have to start taking care of my own needs and I am able to do so. God is good.

Again, thank you for helping me have a successful surgery and recovery.

Sue Garrison



As many of you know, 2023 has been a difficult year both medically & emotionally for our family, but as we look forward to 2024, we wanted to thank our Camp Chapel family for all your cards, texts, emails, calls, hugs and especially your prayers throughout the year. We are so blessed to be surrounded by such loving and caring people and are so grateful for our Camp Chapel family!

Thank you, again!

The Kalendek Family

Dear Camp Chapel United Methodist Church Congregation,

As the Christmas season approaches, I wanted to take a moment to express my deepest gratitude for your unwavering support and heartfelt prayers during my battle with Multiple Myeloma. Although I was thousands of miles away, your prayers transcended distance and brought me strength when I needed it the most.

Today, I am overjoyed to share that I am celebrating two years of remission. This milestone would not have been possible without the love, encouragement, and prayers that surrounded me, emanating from the Camp Chapel community. Your unwavering faith and belief in the power of prayer have been a constant source of inspiration in my journey towards healing.

To show my appreciation, I would like to present each of you with angel keychains as a symbol of the profound impact you have had on my life. Just as angels are messengers of hope and protection, you have been my guiding light throughout this challenging period. Please accept these keychains as a small token of my immense gratitude and a reminder that your prayers were truly a gift to me.

May this Christmas season be filled with blessings, peace, and joy for each one of you. Thank you once again for being an extraordinary congregation, exemplifying the true spirit of unity, compassion, and faith.

With heartfelt thanks and warmest wishes,

Much love,

Les Williams



THANK YOU, Camp Chapel, for All You Do!



Many thanks to the kind elves of Camp Chapel who participated in the Gifts of Love Ministry.

You made children in need happier this Christmas!



Please accept my apology for sending out the following **THANK YOU'S** so late –

Thank you to everyone that volunteered your time for our annual **Children's Carnival** this past September. With your help the event was a HUGE success!

Thank you to everyone that helped with and/or attended our annual **Pumpkin Painting** event in October. A good time was had by all as pumpkins were painted, bedazzled, and glittered.

Thank you to everyone that participated in the **Holiday Bazaar** on November 18th. Whether you donated items to the white elephant table, baked delicious items for the baked goods table, volunteered your time or attended the event – we appreciate all of you!

Thank you again!
Jackie Brawn



Eight Things I Learned in 2023

It's that time! Let me tell you some things I learned or thought about in a fresh way in 2023.

1. I realized something last year that I wish I'd thought about a long time ago. Pastor Carol articulated this thought one Sunday as she was preparing us for worship, and it has resonated profoundly with me. It's the idea that the worship service has many purposes: praying in the midst of other seekers, glorifying God, affirming the Body of Christ, hearing the words of Scripture, supporting and being supported by a community of believers in our joys and sorrows, being in the presence of the holy... I could go on, but one benefit of worshipping together I hadn't considered before that Sunday. Worship is a respite for our troubles. When we gather together as a congregation, God gives each of us permission to drop, for a little while, whatever burdens we have been carrying around with us. We can lay aside our sorrows, disappointments, responsibilities, confusions, doubts, fears, grudges, angers, problems – all those kinds of things that assail us or afflict us or just weigh us down – as we enter the doors of the church, and just lose ourselves in the act of giving glory to our God. Then, when the service is over, if we still feel like we need them, we can pick up our troubles again as we leave.

2. It occurred to me last year that if there was ever a dream job for me, it would surely be thinking up names to give to new prescription drugs as they are brought to market. Just give me a couple of hundred thousand dollars a year, a bag full of Scrabble tiles, and a blindfold, and I know I could come up with the next Skyrizi or Biktarvi or Keytruda or Algarvyx or Otezla or Caplyta or Xyzal or Kesimpta or Entyvio. Oh, and to prove I really can do it, I made up one of the drugs in that list. Yep, they're all names of real drugs except for one, and that one came right out of my Big Bag o' Scrabble Tiles! Did you notice the fake? No? See, I'd be a natural!



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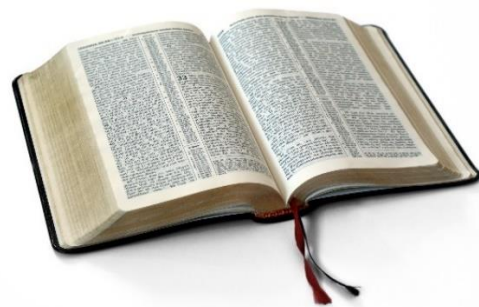
3. I really appreciate that this year Camp Chapel has stepped up our efforts to make visitors feel welcome among us. We've been a welcoming congregation forever, but some of the details are refreshingly different. For one thing, Pastor Carol has been referring to folks we haven't met yet as guests rather than visitors. I like that. Sure, calling them visitors is better than calling them strangers, but the word guest has a little extra warmth to it, don't you think? A visitor is somebody who drops by; a guest is someone we invite inside. I also like the fact that we not only speak of them as our guests, but we treat them as our guests too, particularly in that Pastor Carol tells them that we don't expect them to contribute to the offering when the plates are passed around. That's inviting. That feels like how a first century Christian congregation would behave.

4. I'm putting on my grumpy old man hat. There are certain clichés that I can't stand. One that bothered me particularly last year is the one in which somebody tells you something relatively mundane that happened to them and then adds, "...and the rest is history." For instance, "Hi. I'm Chad and this is my lovely wife, Tiffany. In 2007, we met on a blind date, fell in love, and, well, the rest is history." My my, Chad and Tiff, aren't we full of ourselves today! Listen here: in 49 B.C. Julius Caesar led his legions across the Rubicon River and into Italy in violation of Roman law, and the rest is history. In fact, it's one of the most important events in the rise of Western Civilization. In 1776, fifty-six delegates to the Continental Congress met in Philadelphia and voted to declare independence from Great Britain. The rest is history. In fact, it's the foundational event in all of United States history. But, Chad and Tiff, as much as we love you both (whoever you are), unless you, Tiffany, leave Chad to pursue a career in politics and eventually become the first woman elected president, and then you, Chad, assassinate her to get revenge for her rejection of your love, the rest may be a cute story you can bore your grandkids with, but whatever else "the rest" might be, it is definitely not "history."

5. Rev. Bob Clipp was a guest pastor a few Sundays ago. During his message, he said, "As Christians, we are entrusted with the care of the Gospel." The more I think on that, the more I love it. He didn't dwell long on the idea, so I'm not exactly sure where it might take me. In fact, I'm not a hundred percent certain I even know what he meant, but it has been nibbling at the edges of my mind ever since. I would welcome your thoughts.

But we speak the Gospel
because God approved
us and entrusted us with it.

1 Thessalonians 2:4



6. I've been wishing that certain advertisements be banned from television. No, not the ones touting local lawyers. No, not the ones about products for cleaning "down there," as one of the brands puts it. Nor the endless tacky ones for sports gambling apps. All of those would be great candidates, but the ones I want removed are the insurance ads. I'm done with Flo and Jamie. I enjoyed the gecko for a long time, but not anymore. Get rid of them all! There's one ad for Liberty Mutual in which Doug, their spokesperson, thinks Liberty Mutual is about to drop a piano on his head. Yes, Liberty! Please! Do it!

7. Speaking of sports gambling, wagering on sports is now lawful in most parts of our country, and professional gamblers have taken advantage of legalization to become big businesses. They pay obscene amounts of cash to partner with just about all the amateur and professional sports organizations. Genius Sports has a ten-year contract with the NCAA, FanDuel is the official sports betting partner of Major League Baseball, and the NFL has not one, not two, but three betting partners: Caesars, DraftKings, and FanDuel. What could possibly go wrong? I'm not against gambling in and of itself, but sports and gambling shouldn't be partners. We've already seen a flurry of minor issues involving athletes and coaches betting on sports. With so much money on the line (so to speak), what do you want to bet that a major game fixing scandal like the 1919 Chicago White Sox were involved in will be exposed within the next five years? Hmm, let me rephrase that. What are the odds...? Oops! Well, I think you know what I'm trying to say.

8. I'm sure that most of you reading this are aware that the long-anticipated schism that caused many congregations to consider leaving the United Methodist Church became a hard reality last year. My attitude toward those churches before I attended Annual Conference could have been expressed as, "Don't let the door hit you in the back as you go." I was not prepared for the feelings of grief that I experienced when I voted to allow 23 of them to disaffiliate themselves from the rest of us. I was blindsided. You could probably tell from how difficult it was for me to report to you about it. And we will have another vote when Conference reconvenes in May. I'm not looking forward to that.



Oh, and here's no such drug as Algarvyx. At least not yet.

Bill Smith

Happy Birthday!

January Birthdays

Barbara Thompson	1/03
John Olcott	1/04
Debbie Kalendek	1/08
Winston Bain	1/13
Anita Obinger	1/15
Hannah Warren	1/15
Betty Day	1/21
John Amador	1/22
Ryan Gaskin	1/25
Joyce Williams-Joiner	1/25
Angela Gaskin	1/26
Elly Delkhoo	1/28
Kellie Smith	1/28
Jackie Brawn	1/30
David Dziuk	1/31
David Whitson	1/31

February Birthdays

Darlene Greif	2/03
Andrew Brawn	2/12
David Borgerding	2/13
Ron Wolf	2/13
Carolyn Glorioso	2/20
Cathy Zink	2/22



January Lectionary Readings



January 7 – Epiphany Sunday

Isaiah 60:1-6

Psalm 72:1-7, 10-14 (UMH 795)

Ephesians 3:1-12

Matthew 2:1-12



January 14 – 2nd Sunday of Epiphany

1 Samuel 3:1-10 (11-20)

Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18 (UMH 854)

1 Corinthians 6:12-20

John 1:43-51

January 21 – 3rd Sunday of Epiphany

Jonah 3:1-5, 10

Psalm 62:5-12 (UMH 787)

1 Corinthians 7:29-31

Mark 1:14-20

January 28 – 4th Sunday of Epiphany

Deuteronomy 18:15-20

Psalm 111 (UMH 832)

1 Corinthians 8:1-13

Mark 1:21-28



Important Reminders

The church office is closed **Friday, December 22, 2023** through **Tuesday, January 2, 2024**

Beginning in the February edition, all Acorn articles should be submitted to:

newsletter@campchapel.org

Snow and Ice Policy



In the event of inclement winter weather (snow or ice), we may have to close the church. During the week, any time Baltimore County schools close for winter weather, all activities at the church are cancelled. Saturday events are cancelled if a snow emergency is in effect. Sunday worship will be cancelled to protect our members' safety if our parking lot and walks cannot be safely cleared. The decision about cancellation of worship is made the evening before based on the information we have at that time. Safety is always a priority. Announcements of closure will be posted on our website and on the church office answering machine.



HAPPY NEW YEAR!

A Prayer for a Peaceful New Year

God of all time, help us enter the New Year quietly, thoughtful of who we are to ourselves and to others, mindful that our steps make an impact and our words carry power.

May we walk gently.

May we speak only after we have listened well.

Creator of all life, help us enter the New Year reverently, aware that you have endowed every creature and plant, every person and habitat with beauty and purpose.

May we regard the world with tenderness.

May we honor rather than destroy.

Lover of all souls, help us enter the New Year joyfully, willing to laugh and dance and dream, remembering our many gifts with thanks and looking forward to blessings yet to come.

May we welcome your lavish love. In this new year, may the grace and peace of Christ bless us now and in the days ahead.

—*Vinita Hampton Wright*

